

Application No. 10/648,890  
Docket No. 0220-011

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A line support, comprising:  
  
a support member having an elongate body forming a loop, the support member configured such that a positive biasing force is provided at a distal end of the line support wherein a first support arm and a second support arm are biased to abut one another and capable of separation at the distal end of the line support when a sufficient force is applied to overcome the biasing force;  
  
an alignment retainer located at distal ends of the first and second support arms and capable of assisting in positioning the first and second support arms in abutment; and  
  
a bias adjustment mechanism selectively positionable about the first and second support arms and configured such that the biasing force is selectively adjustable.
2. (Original) The line support of claim 1, wherein the alignment retainer has at least one protrusion provided at the distal end of at least one of the first and second support arms and at least one complimentary protrusion recess opposite each at least one protrusion.

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3. (Original) The line support of claim 1, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism further comprises:
- a first support member;
  - a second support member positioned opposite and affixed to the first support member on one end of the bias adjustment mechanism;
  - an intermediary support portion positioned between and affixed to the first and second support members wherein the intermediary support portion is located between the first and second support arms;
  - a securing support portion affixed to the first and second support members on another end of the bias adjustment mechanism having a threaded bore therethrough; and
  - an adjustable fastener extending through the threaded bore and capable of engaging at least one of the first and second support arms and capable of manipulating the biasing force when adjusted.
4. (Original) The line support of claim 3, wherein the first and second support members are releasably affixed by at least one fastener at the one end, wherein the intermediary support portion is releasably affixed to the first and second support members by at least one fastener at the another end, and wherein the securing support portion is releasably affixed by at least one fastener to the first and second support members.

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5. (Original) The line support of claim 3, wherein the adjustable fastener is capable of being adjusted manually.
6. (Original) The line support of claim 1, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism further comprises at least one elastic biasing member positioned between the first and second support arms.
7. (Original) The line support of claim 6, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism further comprises:
  - a first sliding portion positioned about the first support arm;
  - a second sliding portion positioned about the second support arm; and
  - at least one elastic biasing member positioned between the first and second sliding portions.
8. (Original) The line support of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second support arms has at least one stop provided and positioned to prevent the bias adjustment mechanism from being maneuvered past the at least one stop.
9. (Original) The line support of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second support arms provides indicators that relate to the amount of biasing force provided for a given position of the bias adjustment mechanism.

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10. (Currently Amended) The line support of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second support members has an attachment mechanism capable of attaching the line support to a securing structure.
11. (Original) A retrofit bias adjustment mechanism, comprising:  
a first support member;  
a second support member positioned opposite and releasably affixed to the first support member on at least a distal end of the retrofit bias adjustment mechanism;  
an Intermediary support portion positioned between and releasably affixed to the first and second support members, wherein the intermediary support portion is located between the distal end and a proximal end of the retrofit bias adjustment mechanism;  
a securing support portion releasably affixed to the first and second support members on proximal ends of the first and second support members having a threaded bore therethrough; and  
an adjustable fastener extending through the threaded bore and capable of manipulating a biasing force when adjusted and employed on a line carrier.
12. (Original) The retrofit bias adjustment mechanism of claim 11, wherein the first and second support members are releasably affixed to one another by removable fasteners.
13. (Original) The line support of claim 11, wherein the adjustable fastener is capable of being adjusted manually.

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14. (Original) A line support, comprising:

means for supporting a line, the means for supporting having a positive biasing force provided at a distal end of the line support, wherein the means for supporting is biased to abut a separation in the means for supporting at the distal end of the line support and capable of separation when a sufficient force is applied to overcome the biasing force;

an alignment means located at the distal end of the means for supporting for maintaining the separation of the means for supporting in abutment; and

an adjustment means for providing a selectively adjustable biasing force, the adjustment means selectively positionable about the means for supporting.

15. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the alignment means has a first means for retaining positioned at the distal end of the line support and a second means for retaining opposite the first means for retaining and mating with the first means for retaining, the first means for retaining and second means for retaining provided for retaining the separation in the means for supporting in abutment.

16. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the adjustment means is capable of being adjusted manually.

17. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the means for supporting further comprises at least one elastic means for providing the biasing force.

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18. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the means for supporting further comprises stop means for preventing the adjustment means from being maneuvered past the stop means.

19. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the line support further comprises an attachment means for attaching the line support to a securing structure.

20. (Original) The line support of claim 14, wherein the means for supporting has indication means for relating the amount of biasing force provided for a given position of the adjustment means, the indication means provided on the means for supporting..